

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 NRC-05

FEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07 ERDA-05 EA-10 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NASA-01 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01

OES-07 SS-15 AID-05 CEQ-01 COME-00 EB-08 EPA-01

NSF-01 INT-05 /151 W

-----106558 051201Z /43

O R 051040Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1095

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

US LIAISON OFFICE PEKING 0014

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY NEW DEHLI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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FROM US DEL

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, OCON, SENV, PFOR

SUBJECT: UN DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE: MID-TERM ASSESSMENT

SUMMARY: AT HALF-WAY POINT USDEL BELIEVES SATISFACTORY PROGRESS  
HAS BEEN MADE AND PROSPECTS ARE GOOD-IF NOT YET CERTAIN--  
THAT CONFERENCE WILL CONCLUDE ON SECHEDULE WITH MINIMUM  
OF CONTROVERSY.

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1. BY VIRTUE OF STRONG LEADERSHIP WITHIN PLENARY AND  
MAIN COMMITTEE, COUPLED WITH BEHIND-THE-SCENES WORK BY  
CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT AND BUREAU (LED BY KENYA),  
CONFERENCE HAS PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY FOLLOWING INITIAL  
UNCERTAINTIES AND DELAYS, WHICH HAVE NOW GIVEN WAY TO  
BUSINESSLIKE ATTITUDE AND GOOD SENSE OF PURPOSE AND

OBJECTIVES.

2. PROGRESS FACILITATED BY UNSPOKEN BUT APPARENT INTER-REGIONAL CONSENSUS TO CONFINE POLITICAL ISSUES TO RESOLUTIONS WHICH WILL BE TAKEN UP LATER IN PLENARY. COMMITTEE HAS THUS BEEN ABLE TO FOCUS ON RELEVANT DESERTIFICATION MATTERS. (BY HOLDING FRIDAY NIGHT SESSION, COMMITTEE AT END OF FIRST WEEK WAS VIRTUALLY ON SCHEDULE). MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCKS IN COMMITTEE HAVE BEEN PROLONGED DISCUSSION OF WORLD MAP THAT HAS BEEN NOTHING BUT PROBLEM FROM TIME UNGA CALLED FOR IT; AND BANGLADESH INSISTENCE ON MOVING SHARED RIVER-BASIN ISSUE BEYOND WATER CONFERENCE RESOLUTION. POLITICAL ISSUES IN PLENARY YET TO BE ADDRESSED AND WHICH WILL BE DIFFICULT ARE CAPE VERDE RESOLUTIONS ON CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WARFARE (SEE SEPTTEL) AND BANTUSTANS(SEPTTEL). RESOLUTIONS, YET UNSEEN, ON OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, REMNANTS OF WAR ALSO POSSIBLE. ARA-ISRAELI ISSUES HAVE NOT BECOME PROMINENT, AND PRESS COVERAGE OF ARAB WALKOUT OVERBLOWN. CHINA HAS MADE SEVERAL IDEOLOGICAL AND COMBATIVE INTERVENTIONS IN COMMITTEE, BUT ON THE WHOLE QUITE RESERVED.

3. PRE-CONFERENCE CONSULTATIONS WITH MEXICO IN JULY PROVING VERY USEFUL. MEXICAN DELEGATE CLEARLY SEEKING MODERATING LANGUAGE ALONG LINES OF OUR INFORMAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGREEMENT IN TUCSON, AND IS CONSULTING WITH USDEL PRIOR TO ANY SUBMISSIONS. MEXICAN PREPARING TO INTRODUCE NEW SECTION IN PLAN OF ACTION ON "SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS" WITH CLEAR IMPLICATIONS ABOUT MULTINATIONALS AND INEQUALITIES IN RESOURCE TRANSFERS BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS. USDEL WORKING TO MAKE TEXT MORE ACCEPTABLE, EVEN THOUGH, AS IT NOW STANDS, TEXT AVOIDS CONTENTIOUS LANGUAGE AND DIRECT REFERENCE TO "MULTINATIONALS".

4. INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL FOLLOW-ON ARRANGEMENTS IN HANDS OF INTER-REGIONAL WORKING GROUP OF COMMITTEE. GOOD PROGRESS MADE ON FORMER WITH CONSENSUS FAVORING "UNEP" FORMULA FOR FOLLOW-UP. THIS FORMULA INCLUDES SECRETARIAT UNIT IN UNEP, INTER-GOVERNMENTAL BODY TO BE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL, AND USE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION BOARD (ECB) AS COORDINATING MECHANISM, BUT WITH SOME ROLE ALSO FOR THE ACC. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE ANOTHER MATTER, WITH SEVERAL AFRICAN NATIONS CALLING FOR A FUND; INDIA AND OTHERS CALLING FOR CONSORTIUM; AND WESTERN GROUP(LED BY VERY CONSERVATIVE FRENCH POSITION) WORKING TO AVOID ANY

COMMITMENTS (REAL OR IMPLIED) HERE.

5. U.S. HAS PLAYED PROMINENT ROLE TO DATE WITH USDEL  
CHIEF JOSEPH AS ONE OF VICE-PRESIDENTS (AND PRESIDING  
OVER FRIDAY AM PLENARY). US DELEGATE KAHN IS CHAIRMAN  
OF WEO WORKING GROUP ON INSTITUTIONAL-FINANCIAL  
ARRANGEMENTS; AND U.S. PERM REP FRISBIE "FRIEND" OF  
RAPPORTEUR GENERAL. PRESIDENT CARTER'S MESSAGE TO  
CONFERENCE AND OUR PRINCIPAL PLENARY STATEMENT RECEIVED  
FAVORABLE RESPONSE IN CONFERENCE AND GOOD COVERAGE  
IN PRESS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SOIL EROSION, SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Subject:** UN DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE: MID-TERM ASSESSMENT SUMMARY: AT HALF-WAY POINT USDEL BELIEVES SATISFACTORY PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE AND PROSPECTS ARE GOOD-IF NOT YET CE  
**TAGS:** OCON, SENV, PFOR, UN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009